



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES  
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Governor

[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

HEATHER HOWARD  
Commissioner

July 29, 2009

TO: New Jersey's OB/GYN Providers

FROM: Susan Walsh, MD, FACP  
Deputy Commissioner, Public Health Services

SUBJECT: H1N1 Vaccine and Pregnant Women

It is likely that when and if a vaccine for H1N1 becomes available, pregnant women will be a high priority group for vaccination. The CDC will come out soon with a final list, but these are the currently recommended priority groups:

- **Healthcare workers** providing direct patient services/contacts will be vaccinated first: staff at hospitals, long term care facilities, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), private practice, EMS.
- **Vulnerable populations** will be vaccinated with the first wave of vaccines:
  - School age children, preschool/K-12, as well as school staff.  
Vaccination at schools, FQHCs, private practice.
  - **Pregnant women, new parents (of infants <6m)**, daycare 6m-4 yr.  
Vaccination at private practice, healthcare facilities (Health Care Facilities (HCF)), FQHCs, private practice.
  - Non-elderly (<65yr) with co-morbidity.  
Vaccination at private practice, retail, HCF, Local Health Department (LHD) sponsored clinics.
  - Critical Infrastructure: personnel that keep society safe and operating.  
Vaccination likely at HCF, FQHCs and LHD.
- Then the **general population** at all the above locations.

The vaccines may be available mid-October and will be voluntary. The vaccine along with syringes, gauze and sharp containers will be provided free to providers by the federal government. The CDC plans to coordinate distribution directly to providers and it is hoped that, as OB/GYN providers, you will register to receive a supply, as your patients know you and trust you. Insurance companies have tentatively agreed to pay an administration fee and have developed a CPT code for billing.

The details are being worked out but there will be a short (two page) on-line registration form from my Department that identifies you, requests information on your storage capacity as well as a guestimate of how many vaccines you are likely to need for your staff and patients.

There will be training available (expected to be a webinar) and you will need to record the names of the patients in a state based registry that can track the vaccinations given.

Please consider this communication as my introduction to you and a request for help. Please call me directly if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached by phone at (609) 292-7826 or by e-mail at [susan.walsh@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:susan.walsh@doh.state.nj.us). I am willing to speak to any groups at any time about New Jersey's H1N1 response.

Thanks in advance for your support.